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ABSTRACT

This paper discusses the activities of the National School-Age Child Care Alliance (NSACCA). A definition of school-age child care is followed by a discussion of the purpose of the NSACCA, which is to advocate and support the development and expansion of quality, affordable, and accessible child care for school-age children. The information sources provided in the paper are divided by format: conferences, such as the annual NSACCA Conference; and publications, such as the NSACCA newsletter titled "School-Age Notes, The Newsletter for School-Age Care Professionals," which provides a wealth of information on current events in the school-age care field, comments on important issues and includes activity suggestions as well as lists of resources. A list of activity, behavior management, and administrative resources and publications, available from School-Age Notes, is provided. (MDM)

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Resources for School Age Child Care

The National School-age Child Care Alliance defines School Age Child Care in this way:

"School-age child care refers to programs provided to care for children ages 5-13 before school, after school, during school holidays and during vacations when parents are not available to care for their children. School-age child care programs can have a wide variety of sponsors, such as schools, community centers, parks and recreation departments, YM/YWCAs, Boys and Girls Clubs, Camp Fire Boys and Girls, child care centers, churches and home day care providers.

Regardless of their locations, quality school-age child care programs provide children with a safe, home-like environment where they can unwind, play with friends, and eat wholesome snacks. The children are involved in planning the daily events, selecting the activities, and creating the schedule that they wish to follow. Activities such as arts, sports, field trips or even homework give the children an opportunity to have fun while learning new life skills. Sufficient, easily accessible materials encourage spontaneous and productive play.

The quality of the staff is vitally important to the success of the program. Well-trained adults who enjoy

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sharing their skills and hobbies with the children are essential. Other requirements include an ability to work with parents in a meaningful, supportive manner, organizational skills, and a sense of humor. Staff-child ratios are low enough to allow one-on-one interaction and create a positive climate. The SACC program understands the developmental needs of school-age children and provides a home away from home." (Membership Brochure)

The purpose of the Alliance is to advocate and support the development and expansion of quality, affordable and accessible school-age child care. The purpose of this presentation is to promote quality care by providing sources of information for school age care providers. The information sources are classified by format: conferences and publications.

CONFERENCES

Conferences provide first hand, interactive experiences. Opportunities to - visit school age care sites, ask questions of experts in the field, share with colleagues, and catch the excitement - are a few of the advantages of BEING THERE. The '93 National School Age Child Care Alliance Conference will be held in St Paul Minnesota, April 29-May 11. The '94 conference will be held in Philadelphia, PA. Kentucky hosts an annual spring conference and a week long forum in the summer. Tennessee also hosts a SAC Director's Forum. Charlotte, North Carolina is the site this year for an early summer conference.

PUBLICATIONS

Look for conference listings in "School-Age Notes, The Newsletter for School-Age Care Professionals," published by Rich Scofield. The address is P.O. Box 40205, Nashville TN 37204. The phone number is 615-242-8464. In addition to conference listings, School Age Notes provides a wealth of information on current events in the school age care field, comments on important issues, activity suggestions, and lists of resources.

Another important source of information is the School-Age Child Care Project, Center for Research on Women, Wellesley College, Wellesley, MA 02181. ASQ, a self-guided resource that outlines the elements of quality, provides instruments to assess quality and offers a process to improve programs, was developed by Susan O'Connor and is available from the SACC Project. ASQ is only one of the project's many publications.

Project Home Safe, a program of the American Home Economics Association funded by Whirlpool Foundation, has two publications: Developmentally Appropriate Practice in School-Age Child Care Programs and Quality Criteria for School Age Child Care Programs. Project Home Safe's resource center distributes materials and can be reached by calling 800-252-SAFE.

The following are some activity, behavior management, and administration resources all available from School Age Notes:

Activities

School Age Ideas and Activities for After School Programs by Karen Haas-Foletta and Michele Cogley.

Activities for Before and After School by Gork and Pratt.

Good Earth Art by Mary Ann Kohl and Cindy Gainer.

Outrageous Outdoor Games Book by Bob Gregson.

Foodworks by Linda Hendry.

Behavior Management

Please Don't Sit on the Kids: Alternative to Punitive Discipline by Clare Cherry.

Discipline That Works: Promoting Self-Discipline in Children by Dr. Thomas Gordon.

The Friendly Classroom for a Small Planet: A Handbook on Creative Approaches to Living and Problem Solving for Children by Pruntzman, Burger, Bodenhamer, and Stern.

Tribes (A process for social development and cooperative learning) by Jeanne Gibbs.

Administration

Nursery and Day Care Center Management Guide by Clare Cherry.

Before and After School Programs: A Start-Up and Administration Manual by Mary McDonald Richard.

Kids Club: A School-Age Program Guide for Directors by Linda Sisson.

Half a Childhood: Time for School Age Child Care by Bender, Elder and Flatter.

S.O.S. Kit for Directors by Early Childhood Directors Assoication.

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Albrecht, K.M. (Ed.).(1991). Quality Criteria for School Age Child Care Programs. Alexandria, VA: Project Home Safe.

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National School-Age Child Care Alliance Membership Brochure

O'Connor, S. (1991). Assessing School-Age Child Care Quality. Wellesley, MA: Center for Research on Women Wellesley College.

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